

LAST EDITION.

MONDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, MAY 30, 1904.

MONDAY EVENING.

TWO CENTS.

FLOOD IN TOPEKA

Over Three Inches of Rainfall Is Recorded.

The River Rises to a Height of 18 Feet.

PEOPLE WERE EXCITED

Gathered in Crowds Sunday on Melan Bridge.

Citizens of North Topeka Were Much Alarmed.

CITY RAILWAY HURT.

Part of the Piles Are Washed Out.

Structure is Wracked and Can't Be Used.

False Work on Rock Island Bridge Also Carried Away.

Total amount of rainfall in Topeka from noon Saturday until Sunday afternoon, 3.5-10 inches.

This morning at 7:30 o'clock the government gauge on the second pier of the Rock Island railroad bridge registered 18 feet of water in the Kaw river. One hour later the water was falling at the rate of one-half inch an hour with prospects of a more rapid decline during the day. Weather Director Thorp B. Jennings declared this morning that all danger of flood is now over, due not only to the fact that the rainfall ceased yesterday morning at 8 o'clock at Clay Center and at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Manhattan, but also because the bulk of the big rain which has prevailed over Kansas for the past three days, fell mostly in the west and north and is being emptied into the Missouri through the Neosho and Marais des Cygnes rivers. Only one disquieting rumor made itself felt this morning and that could not be verified. It was to the effect that a big rise was coming down from the Solomon. Director Jennings made strenuous efforts to get the facts about it, but was unable to do so. "Don't believe it," was his final conclusion, and he is probably right.

But the Kaw's rampage of the past three days caused a great deal of worry and some damage. At 7:30 o'clock on Saturday morning the water in the river, by Sunday morning had swollen to 10 feet. At 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon it was marked 14 feet, and was still rapidly rising. The people of North Topeka became worried. By 6 o'clock another foot had been added to the water level. At the west end of North Topeka began packing up their household affairs and moving into attics and upstairs. Live stock, too, were being moved to higher ground on the north side where they would be safe from any immediate inundation. The people in that district feared another catastrophe such as they suffered a year ago yesterday, namely, that the river would leap up on them from the rear and again engulf their homes without an opportunity of escape.

A great many staid up all night, ready to get away at a moment's notice. Up to this morning people were on the streets of the North side anxiously awaiting tidings of the river which was momentarily expected to reach the top of the bank on that side. At 3 o'clock the river became stationary and with the clearing skies the fears of the North Topekanians were relaxed. The falling of the water after daylight and the reports of good weather further up the state, the people of the North side went back to their homes with some assurance of no present danger.

The rainfall in Topeka since Saturday was the heaviest of the year. Since that time the precipitation as registered by the government weather bureau amounted to 2.5 inches and the bulk of this fell on Saturday night, at a time almost approaching a cloudburst. In many places over the city the streets were flooded, particularly so near the Rock Island depot at First and Kansas avenues. Elsewhere the water was the worst sufferer in that regard. The Shunganunga jumped its banks in several places and the backwater threatened the gutters and gutters throughout the district. The creek was almost full to its banks. The heaviest overflow occurred at the fair grounds and farther east close to Kansas avenue, where the water was backed up as far as Eighteenth street. Flooded cellars caused the most damage. This morning the Shunganunga is subsiding. Almost any freshet will set that stream on a rampage and the people living near its banks are usually on the lookout for trouble about this time of the year and prepare for it. The actual damage therefore was practically insignificant.

City Railway Suffers.

The Topeka Street Railway company suffered damage which will aggregate close to a thousand dollars. The false work on the Rock Island bridge farther up the river was carried away and jammed against the piers of the city railway bridge with all the terrific force of the current. In three places the street car bridge is rapidly falling. The track looks more like a snake than a tangent. One set of piers was carried out entirely. Great chunks of driftwood are still lodged against the structure and the company has about fifty men at work today trying to prevent any further damage. All last night the wrecking crews worked like Trojans to save the bridge. Dynamite in great quantities was used to break up the driftwood. The work was accomplished. The railway company does not expect to be able to use the bridge again for three weeks or a month. In several places the structure is weakened, and it is probable that about at least two of the spans will have to be taken out

and replaced again at their original position.

The Independent Telephone company was also a loser, but not to a considerable amount. The wreckage knocked two of its poles out of the river, but the heavy wire cables which they support are keeping them from being washed away. The damage over at the Rock Island bridge to the telephone company was more marked. One span of wires was entirely carried out when the falsework from the bridge struck the poles. This was at once repaired this morning, and the service was not delayed longer than a few hours.

The banks of the river and the railings of the bridge were lined with hundreds of people today watching the river. While the major share is there out of curiosity, there are a good many anxious faces also noticeable in the crowd. North Topeka has little trust in the Kaw river this year and any marked rise sets the people on that side to worrying, and not without cause. A great many of the visitors who are here for the Semi-centennial visited the river today. On the basis of the reputation it made for itself last year, it is fast becoming one of the sights of the city, and especially at this time of the season. There is little drift wood on the river now. The only place where it is over its bank is in the city park where the gulls silt the bank in a number of places. There is a good deal of foam on the river, designating a very swift current. It is expected that by tonight the bulk of the water will have been reduced again to a point where all fear of present danger can be turned over.

Stationary at Lawrence.

Lawrence, Kan., May 30.—The Kaw river here rose two feet during the night, but is stationary today. The water is 3 feet higher than any since the great flood last summer. The bottoms south of town are flooded and the stream there is from two to three miles wide. The water is over many of the wagon bridges and the crops in the valley are ruined. All trains are late.

No Danger at Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., May 30.—The river here is rising slowly for 24 hours. The Kaw river at this point was stationary today, and as the streams west of here are receding or stationary, no damage is anticipated. It would take a rise of 12 feet at this point to do any great damage.

Arrest Billy Buchan.

Charged With Trying to Bribe Mayor of Kansas City.

Myron A. Waterman, formerly connected with the state bank deposit, was arrested yesterday by W. B. Benthin, but now a prominent citizen of Kansas City, Kan., does not propose to quit his fight against boodles in Kansas City simply because the grand jury investigation there fell down. He has sworn out a warrant for the arrest of W. J. Buchan, former state senator from Wyandotte county, on the charge of attempted bribery. It is said that he acted upon the advice of Attorney General Coleman.

It is known that Buchan was one of the principal ones that the citizens' committee, which was behind the grand jury investigation and of which Waterman was chairman, was after. No indictment was returned against Buchan, however, and this was a source of disappointment to the committee.

The specific charge against Buchan is that he attempted to bribe two members of the city council of Kansas City, Kan., to vote for the Metropolitan street railway, for which Buchan is attorney. The two councilmen were T. B. Gilbert, now mayor, and E. A. Kampmiller.

Buchan has been a big Republican leader in Wyandotte county for years. He was elected to the legislature in 1876 until 1888, and at one time the "Three B's," Buchan, Blue, and Barker, were the bosses of the senate.

Buchan has also been a prominent candidate for congress in the Second district at various times. He has been attorney for the street car company and some of the packing houses and other corporations for several years.

The Metropolitan street railway franchise in which it is charged he bribed was attempted, was passed by the council in Kansas City, Kan., at 2 o'clock on the morning of December 19, 1902, by a vote of 12 to 2. The vote was against it being T. B. Gilbert and E. A. Kampmiller, whom the council had offered a bribe of \$1,000 each. Although there remained six years under which the Metropolitan could operate under the old franchise, the company chose the last few months of the Cradock administration in which to secure a new one.

Soon after the passage of the franchise, T. B. Gilbert, then a member of the council from the Third ward, declared to his friends that he had been offered a \$1,000 bribe to vote for the franchise. He made the statement openly and it soon became known to practically every citizen that Mr. Gilbert had been offered a bribe to vote for the franchise. The councilman, Gilbert, at the city election in April of last year he was given the largest majority for mayor that has been recorded in the history of the city. He was elected on an anti-Metropolitan platform.

Much Stock Drowned.

Dragon Is Higher Than It Has Been Since 1844.

Dragon, Osage Co., May 30.—This community is now experiencing the worst flood since 1844. The dragon, which has been a constant menace to the river reaches from bluff to bluff. Crops are practically ruined in the bottom and nearly all the bridges on the river are washed out. On the Dinkershoof farm 140 acres were from two to three feet under water, and at John Neale's place the river is a mile and half wide, and the bridge across the river is gone. Hundreds of cattle, hogs and horses have been drowned, but there has been no loss of life, though many families were taken away in boats and on horses.

Quiet at Abilene.

Rise in the River Was Only Four Feet.

Abilene, Kan., May 30.—The Smoky Hill river has not been high—the rise being only four feet above low water. It is falling today and no damage has been reported.

WILLIAM H. TAFT, SECRETARY OF WAR, THE MOST DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANT IN TODAY'S SEMI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.



SHIFTS TO NORTH

Scene of Hostilities in Manchuria Has Been Changed.

Advance in Direction of Mukden Is Resumed.

MOVE ON KWAN TIEN.

Kuropatkin Is Uncertain About Number of Enemy.

His Patrols Heard the Firing at Kin Chou.

St. Petersburg, May 30.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Kuropatkin under today's date:

"I this morning received a report stating that the Japanese advance on Kwan Tien has begun from Salmatza. The numbers of the enemy are not known."

The emperor has received the following dispatch from General Kuropatkin under yesterday's date:

"A detachment of Japanese cavalry consisting of 50 sabres moved forward from the main body May 27 and approached within eight kilometers southeast of Wa Fang Hoon station, but on encountering our frontier guards fell back rapidly."

"On May 26 a Russian patrol heard heavy artillery firing in the direction of the frontier. He made no attempt to follow it up."

Russians Capture Japanese Convoy.

Liao Yang, May 30.—Lieutenant Colonel Kikidoff, of the Fourth Trans-Amur railway battalion, has captured the railway north of Kin Chou, between the stations at Sinichen and Vanzulin and tomorrow will complete the work between Bfangoy and Wafanlian.

The Chinese are readily offering themselves for employment. A typhoon prevails which hinders the Japanese landing operations and heavy rains are spoiling the roads.

The Russians, it is reported, have captured a Japanese convoy.

Kaiser Takes Much Interest.

Berlin, May 30.—The Kaiser, the organ of the German Asiatic society, says Emperor William has sent to General Kuropatkin, through Major Runkel, who went to Manchuria as German military attaché, a long congratulatory letter. High military officials here remark upon the unusually lively interest the emperor takes in military events in the far east. His majesty has the general staff send him twice daily reports regarding the situation there. The reports are accompanied by maps, and plans of the military operations.

Japanese Plans.

St. Petersburg, May 30, 3:18 p. m.—According to information received by the Associated Press from a high source important news regarding the Japanese plan of campaign which has reached the Russian authorities since the battle of Kin Chou compels the conviction that the advance of General Kuropatkin and the activity of his scouts northwest and southward toward the Liao Tung peninsula are part of a well executed plan to prevent General Kuropatkin from detaching a strong force to hamper General Oku's operations in the Liao Tung peninsula.

Under cover of General Kuropatkin's screens, it is added, part of the Japanese army landed at Taku Shan will be moved southward into the peninsula, while Kuropatkin attempts to make Kuropatkin believe that he intends to force a decisive engagement with him. This information would tend to prove that the primary object of the Japanese campaign all along has been Port Arthur, and that once that fortress is in their hands, the Japanese commander to assume the offensive.

Weather Indications.

Chicago, May 30.—Forecast for Kansas: Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday, variable winds.

ceremonies in which Chicago honored its dead heroes of the Civil war were carried out faithfully today. The morning hours were set apart for the decoration of graves by the posts of regular army and navy veterans and their daughters. This was followed by the annual parade of the soldiers of '61. As a tribute to the sailors and soldiers who died on the sea and the shores of the posts of naval veterans marched to the edge of the lake at Grant park and amid appropriate ceremonies strewed flowers upon the water. In Oakwoods, the resting spot of the Confederate soldiers who are buried in Chicago, were not neglected. With the old leaders at the center, the veterans trudged arm in arm, their wives and the widows of their former comrades who are banded together in the Woman's Relief Corps. The sons and daughters of veterans accompanied their elders in the memorial parades.

Work is begun.

Active Construction on Oil Line to Kansas City.

Kansas City, May 30.—Active work began here today on the construction of the pipe line that is to connect the Standard Oil refinery at Sugar creek with the Kansas and Indian Territory oil fields. A pumping station is each started the construction. A third gang of 150 men will be added the latter part of this week. One of the two gangs started from Sugar creek and the other from Humboldt, the Kansas terminus of the big trunk line. The right of way has been secured.

The pipe line will run south from Sugar creek on the ridge east of the Sugar valley to a point between Grand View and Hickman's mill, when it will run in a southwesterly direction, leaving Jackson county at Maitin. Thence it will run southwesterly along the line of the Missouri Pacific railroad, going through or close to the towns of Paola and Oswatimie, to Garnett, where it will leave the railroad and follow the Santa Fe right of way, touching at the towns of Colony and Iola and terminating at Humboldt.

Branch lines from various points in the Kansas and Indian Territory oil fields will connect with the main trunk line at Humboldt. A pumping station at Iola will be equipped with a 114 miles of 8-inch pipe between Sugar creek and Humboldt. The pipe line will run through Jackson county in Missouri, and Miami, Allen and Anderson counties in Kansas.

The pipe line specially constructed for the purpose. The first shipment will arrive at Sugar creek this week. All of the pipe of the trunk line will be of 18 inches to three feet under ground. A pumping station is being erected at Humboldt which is expected will pump the oil 114 miles from Humboldt to Sugar creek. The pumping station will be equipped with a big compound oil pump specially built for the purpose.

The highest point on the pipe line is at Welda, near Garnett, where the altitude is 1,100 feet. The altitude at the refinery at Sugar Creek is about 700 feet. The pipe line will cross 3,000 a mile which with the cost of the pumping station at Humboldt will cost about \$500,000. The pipe line will be finished by October. It is expected that the refinery at Sugar Creek will be in operation.

The building of the pipe line is being watched with interest by men who represent thousands of dollars invested in the Kansas and Indian Territory oil fields. The Kansas fields are expected to be better prices for crude oil. They say that it will sell for \$2. Recent advances have brought the price up to \$1.50.

The building of the refinery and the pipe line means that the Standard Oil company has measured the possibilities of the Kansas fields. The company is spending \$1 million dollars in the building of a refinery at Kansas City and in perfecting its pipe line connections with the Kansas and Indian Territory oil fields.

The purpose of a pipe line is to save the cost of transportation by rail. The cost of pipe, however, is a heavy item. Rockefeller interests from the railroads until after the crude oil is distilled.

Graves Are Decorated.

The morning's delegations of old soldiers from the G. A. R. posts and the W. R. C. visited the cemeteries and decorated the soldiers' graves.

Early this morning people began going to the cemetery and by 10 o'clock more than half of the graves in Topeka cemetery had been decorated. The roads were covered with a mass of people from coming in from over the state, but the floods will probably subside rapidly.

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IT IS OPEN TODAY

First Day of Semi-Centennial Bright and Clear.

Memorial Day Programme and Parade Is Given.

SECRETARY TAFT HERE

His Train Was Twenty Minutes Late.

Parker Shows Didn't Reach Topeka Till Today.

DECORATED GRAVES.

Ceremony of Devotion at Cemeteries This Morning.

Streets and Houses Are Gaily Decorated.

Never was a Memorial Day brighter than that which dawned this morning. The sky was cloudless and it seemed an auspicious beginning for Kansas' Semi-Centennial. Following the disagreeable weather which has prevailed off and on for several days the sunshine this morning was a great relief.

Although the high water brought up memories of a year ago, and the state of the river attracted the attention of many, the news that the flood was subsiding above tended to allay any apprehensions of danger.

Early this morning people began to make their way to the cemetery to lay their floral tributes of love on the graves of loved ones. This custom was interfered with a year ago by the terrors of the flood, but today hundreds made the customary pilgrimage to the cemetery laden with beautiful flowers.

The preparations for the Semi-Centennial celebration took final shape early this morning. A few buildings were decorated on Saturday, but the majority of merchants waited until today to put out their decorations. Early this morning, however, the decorations began to appear and the city took on its holiday attire. All up and down Kansas avenue this afternoon flags are fluttering and there is bunting everywhere.

The interior of the state house has been decorated as never before. In the center of the rotunda long streamers of bunting are hung and the city took on its holiday attire. All up and down Kansas avenue this afternoon flags are fluttering and there is bunting everywhere.

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